

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 19, 1984

and

Tuesday, March 20, 1984

GEORGE N. GRAY

CHAIRMAN

Houma, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION

March 20, 1984

AGENDA

	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Roll call.	1
2. Invocation.	1
3. Approve the minutes of January 24, 1984.	1
4. Monthly survey report.	2
5. Striped Bass Survey report.	2
6. Set date for June Board Meeting.	2

MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION  
HOUMA, LOUISIANA

March 19, 1984

and

March 20, 1984

Chairman George N. Gray, presiding:

Members present:

Dr. Jack Cappel  
Mr. M. Lyle Crain  
Mr. James Farrelly  
Mr. Dale Vinet

Secretary J. Burton Angelle was present.

\* \* \* \*

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. George N. Gray, on Monday March 19, at 2:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in Houma, Louisiana.

Motion was made by Dr. Jack Cappel, seconded by Mr. James Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that the Commission go into a committee of the whole.

A roll call of members present was taken.

Invocation was offered by Dr. Jack Cappel.

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Motion was made by Mr. James Farrelly, seconded by Dr. Jack Cappel, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of January 24, 1984.

Mr. Harry Schafer gave the monthly survey report for the period February 13 through March 4, 1984. During this period, field activity consisted of 76 surveys scheduled, 43 of which were surveyed. Thirty-three applications were unable to be surveyed due to bad weather or low tide.

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Mr. Bennie Fontenot submitted a written report on the Striped Bass Survey. (A copy is attached to these minutes)

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The June Board Meeting was scheduled for the 4th and 5th in Shreveport, La.

Motion was made by Mr. James Farrelly that the meeting be adjourned.

Minutes transcribed by  
Linda Gregson

### Attitudes of Respondents to the Striped Bass Survey

A total of 9881 Louisiana Boat owners were sent a questionnaire asking for their opinions about Striped Bass. After 3 mailings 5843 (59%) had responded. Minor differences in responses were noted among the responses to the different mailings but these differences did not warrant elaborate adjustments in the estimates. Almost all of the respondents (5603 - 96%) fish in Louisiana and all further remarks concern only those who fish in Louisiana. About two thirds (68%) of the respondents had heard of the Striped Bass Program and 2529 or 48% of those who answered the question claimed to have caught a Striped Bass.

Most respondents claimed that the Striped Bass was a good or excellent sport fish (3706 - 74%) while 488 (9.7%) reported that it was a bad or poor sport fish. People who were aware of the program and those who were not aware of the program responded essentially the same way to this question. The people who had caught a Striped Bass rated it as a good or excellent sport fish 74% of the time and those who had never caught one rated it good or excellent 75% of the time.

Overall, 76% of the respondents favored stocking Striped Bass, 10% were opposed to it and 14% had no opinion. People who had never heard of the program were less likely to have an opinion concerning stocking than those who were aware of the program. The same pattern was found with people who had never caught a Striped Bass being less likely to express an opinion concerning stocking.

When fishermen were asked whether they thought Striped Bass had affected their fishing, 21% said it had helped, 10% said it had hurt and 69% said it had no effect. Twenty-three percent of the people who were aware of the Striped Bass Program said it helped their fishing while 12% said it hurt their fishing (65% said No Effect). Sixteen percent of those who were unaware of the program said it helped their fishing while 4% said it hurt their fishing (80% said No Effect). The respondents who had never caught a Striped Bass were less likely to claim it affected their fishing than those who had caught one. More than twice as many respondents who have caught a Striped Bass think it helped their fishing than think it hurt their fishing.

### Striped Bass Survey

59% of boat owners contacted responded

96% said they fished

68% of the fishermen were aware of the Striped Bass Program

48% said they had caught a Striped Bass

#### Opinion of Striped Bass as a Sport Fish

Bad-Poor	Fair	Good-Excellent
9.7%	16.6%	73.7%

#### Do You Favor Stocking?

Yes	No	No Opinion
76%	10%	14%

#### How Do You Think Striped Bass Has Affected Your Fishing?

Hurt	No Effect	Helped
9.7%	69.6%	20.7%

Comparison of other responses of people who are aware of the program and those who are not aware of the program.

Have You Ever Caught a Striped Bass?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	
aware	1881 (49%)	1853 (49%)	71 ( 2%)	3805 (68%)
not aware	643 (36%)	912 (52%)	211 (12%)	1766 (32%)
	<u>2524 (45%)</u>	<u>2765 (50%)</u>	<u>282 ( 5%)</u>	<u>5571</u>

What is Your Opinion of Striped Bass as a Sport Fish?

	Bad-Poor	Fair	Good-Excellent	
aware	354 (10%)	542 (15%)	2660 (75%)	3556 (71%)
not aware	132 ( 9%)	291 (20%)	1039 (71%)	1462 (29%)
	<u>486 (10%)</u>	<u>833 (17%)</u>	<u>3699 (74%)</u>	<u>5018</u>

How Do You Think Striped Bass Have Affected Your Fishing?

	Hurt	No Effect	Helped	
aware	436 (12%)	2327 (65%)	812 (23%)	3575 (70%)
not aware	57 ( 4%)	1213 (81%)	240 (16%)	1510 (30%)
	<u>493 (10%)</u>	<u>3540 (70%)</u>	<u>1052 (21%)</u>	<u>5085</u>

Do You Favor Stocking Striped Bass?

	Yes	No	No Opinion	
aware	1900 (84%)	319 ( 9%)	249 ( 7%)	3468 (67%)
not aware	1262 (73%)	102 ( 6%)	354 (21%)	1718 (33%)
	<u>4162 (80%)</u>	<u>421 ( 8%)</u>	<u>603 (12%)</u>	<u>5186</u>

Comparison of attitudes of respondents who reported catching a Striped Bass and those who had not.

Opinion of the Striped Bass

	Bad-Poor	Fair	Good-Excellent	
caught	210 (11%)	268 (14%)	1389 (74%)	1867 (53%)
not caught	139 ( 9%)	265 (16%)	1219 (75%)	1623 (47%)
	<u>349 (10%)</u>	<u>533 (15%)</u>	<u>2608 (75%)</u>	<u>3490</u>

Do You Favor Stocking Striped Bass

	Yes	No	No Opinion	
caught	1454 (78%)	302 (16%)	117 ( 6%)	1873 (51%)
not caught	1391 (77%)	161 ( 9%)	268 (15%)	1820 (49%)
	<u>2845 (77%)</u>	<u>463 (13%)</u>	<u>385 (10%)</u>	<u>3693</u>

How Do You Think Striped Bass Have Affected Your Fishing?

	Hurt	No Effect	Helped	
caught	293 (16%)	901 (49%)	644 (35%)	1838 (52%)
not caught	136 ( 8%)	1371 (82%)	156 ( 9%)	1663 (48%)
	<u>429 (12%)</u>	<u>2701 (77%)</u>	<u>800 (23%)</u>	<u>3501</u>